

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the very thorough consideration given the present application.

Claims 1-26 are now present in this application. Claims 1, 5, 9, 15, 19, 21, 23 and 25 are independent.

Claims 1, 5, 9 and 15 have been amended. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Priority Under 35 U.S.C. § 119

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicants' claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, and receipt of the certified priority document.

Drawings

Applicants have not received a Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review PTO-948 or other indication of whether or not the formal drawings have been approved by the Draftsperson. Clarification in the next Office Action is respectfully requested.

Claim Amendments

Applicants have amended the claims in order to place the claims in better form. The claim amendments are not being made in response to any statutory requirement for patentability, and have not been narrowed in scope. Instead, the claims have been amended merely to recite the subject matter therein more clearly.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102/103

Claims 1, 3-5, 9-12, 14-15 and 17-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,999,505 to Yasui, claims 2, 6, 13 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yasui, as applied to claim 1, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,091,686 to Caffarelli et al. (Caffarelli), claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yasui, as applied to claim 1, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,365,467 to Fujita et al. (Fujita), and claims 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yasui, as applied to claim 5, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,263,154B to Scheffler. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Complete discussions of the Examiner's rejections are set forth in the Office Action, and are not being repeated here.

Yasui discloses an audio interface 12, which includes an A/D comparator and a D/A comparator (see Fig.3 of Yasui). Referring to Fig.3, audio interface 12 receives analog audio input data from a source external to the audio data receiving apparatus, digitizes the input analog audio data, and then supplies the digital audio data to an audio encoder/decoder 14. (see Yasui, Col.3, lines 33-36 and Fig.3).

From the above-cited portions of Yasui, it is evident that an input *analog audio signal* is received *from an external source*, as opposed to an input *digital audio signal* being received from an external source. Clearly then, Yasui does not disclose a *converter converting a digital audio signal, input from a source external to the audio data receiving apparatus, into record-formatted audio data*, as recited in independent claim 1.

Further, the Yasui patent does not appear to *specify a preparation process*. On the other hand, it is certain that Yasui makes no reference to specifying a preparation process in a bus standard protocol *for a personal computer*. Also, besides lacking *specificity* as to a type of protocol as it relates to a personal computer, a mention of the phrase “personal computer” is not found in the Yasui reference (not even a single occurrence). Neither is reference made therein to AT attachment packet interface (ATAPI) protocol bus (especially in terms of specificity). Accordingly, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102 is improper.

Particularly, Yasui fails to teach a converter converting a digital audio

signal, input from a source external to the audio data receiving apparatus, into record-formatted audio data, and/or an interface, receiving the record-formatted audio data from said converter, and transferring, via a bus, the record-formatted audio data to a disk recording/reproducing device without conducting a preparation process for transferring data when a record request is received from the disk recording/reproducing device, wherein the preparation process is specified in a bus standard protocol for a personal computer, as recited in independent claim 1, as amended.

Further, Yasui does not teach a connector sending/receiving signals through a bus in accordance with a bus protocol compatible with a bus protocol specified for use in a personal computer, as recited in independent claim 5 (as amended) and similarly stated in independent claims 9 and 15 (as amended). Neither does Yasui teach first sending a start signal, signaling to start a data transfer operation, through an AT attachment packet interface (ATAPI) protocol bus, as recited in independent claim 19, and similarly stated in independent claims 21, 23 and 25.

Claims 2-4, 6-8, 10-14, 16-18, 20, 22, 24 and 26 depend, either directly or indirectly on independent claims 1, 5, 9, 15, 19, 21, 23 and 25, and therefore are patentable for at least the reasons stated with respect to independent claims 1, 5, 9, 15, 19, 21, 23 and 25. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these art grounds of rejection are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Percy L. Square, Registration No. 51,084, at (703) 205-8034, in the Washington, D.C. area.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Application No.: 09/617,049
Art Unit 2182

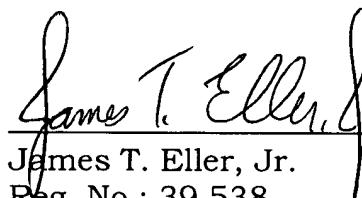
Attorney Docket No. 2950-0164P
Amendment filed on July 9, 2003
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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) An audio data receiving apparatus, comprising:
a converter converting a digital audio signal, input from a source external to the audio data receiving apparatus, into record-formatted audio data; and
an interface, receiving the record-formatted audio data from said converter, and transferring, via a bus, the record-formatted audio data to a disk recording/reproducing device without conducting a preparation process for transferring data when a record request is received from the disk recording/reproducing device, wherein the preparation process is specified in a bus standard protocol for a personal computer.

5. (Amended) An audio data recording apparatus, comprising:
a connector sending/receiving signals through a bus in accordance with a bus protocol compatible with a bus protocol specified for use in a personal computer;
a recorder modulating audio data received through said connector into recording signals and recording the recording signals in a recording medium; and
a controller controlling the connector to transmit a transfer start signal to a counter part of the bus without sending/receiving packet commands through the bus when a record command is received.

9. (Amended) A method for sending/receiving audio data through a bus, comprising the steps of:

- (a) entering into a data communication mode without conducting a preparation process for transferring data over a bus when a record request is received, wherein the preparation is specified in a bus standard protocol for a personal computer, and includes occupying a bus and issuing packet commands;
- (b) sending/receiving audio data in the data communication mode; and
- (c) stopping the data communication mode when a recording stop request is received;

15. (Amended) A method for sending/receiving data between two devices through a bus, comprising the steps of:

- (a) simultaneously transferring a transfer start signal and a conversion start signal to a data transfer device without conducting a preparation process for transferring data when a record request is received, wherein the preparation process is specified in a bus standard protocol for a personal computer and includes occupying the bus and issuing packet commands;
- (b) converting an input signal into data streams of pre-determined format when the data transfer device receives the conversion start signal;
- (c) checking whether the transfer start signal is received when a predetermined number of data streams are generated; and
- (d) transferring the data streams to a receiving device through the bus when step (c) indicates the transfer start signal has been received.